

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 OMB-01 AID-05 DRC-01 /067 W

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P R 100658Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6434

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

EUCOM

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 8047

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ANKARA VIEWS OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS

REF: ANKARA 8016 (NOTAL)

1. IN CONNECTION WITH CURRENT TURKISH GOVERNMENT CRISIS, EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICERS CARRIED OUT SERIES OF VISITS OCTOBER 9, COVERING A SPECTRUM OF ANKARA OPINION FROM A FAR LEFT POLITICAL SCIENCE PROFESSOR TO ONE OF THE FOUR VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE FAR RIGHT NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP). THIS WAS OF COURSE DONE BEFORE THE EXPECTED OCTOBER 10 ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT KORUTURK CONCERNING RESULTS OF HIS OCTOBER 8 MEETING WITH ALL PARTY LEADERS (REFTEL) AND CLEARLY IS NOT A FULL POLL OF TURKISH OPINION. FOLLOWING POINTS MADE TO US, HOWEVER, ARE NOTEWORTHY.

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2. ALL WITH WHOM WE TALKED AGREED THAT EITHER A WEAK

MINORITY OR A PROBABLY WEAK COALITION GOVERNMENT (ALSO POSSIBLY MINORITY) WERE MOST LIKELY OUTCOMES OF CURRENT CRISIS. ON OTHER SIGNIFICANT POINTS THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT EXCEPT FROM THE NSP VICE PRESIDENT, WHO WAS CLEARLY OUT OF LINE WITH MAIN BODY OF TURKISH POLITICAL THINKING.

3. AMONG MOST NOTEWORTHY VIEWS GENERALLY AGREED TO WERE:

A. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT WILL HEAD NEXT GOVERNMENT.
(NSP, ON THE CONTRARY, IS SEEKING A JUSTICE PARTY (JP)-NSP MINORITY COALITION UNDER SULEYMAN DEMIREL.)

B. ECEVIT HAS IMPRESSIVE SUPPORT FROM THE MODERATE RIGHT OF THE LEFT.

C. ONLY THE NSP LEADER REFERRED TO CYPRUS AS AN INTERNAL ISSUE; ALL OTHERS MENTIONED THE "NATIONAL UNITY" BROUGHT TO TURKEY BY ECEVIT'S HANDLING OF RECENT EVENTS ON THE ISLAND.

D. AGAIN WITH EXCEPTION OF NSP VICE PRESIDENT, THERE WAS UNANIMOUS APPROVAL OF CALLING AN "EARLY" ELECTION.
(THE NSP LEADER HOPED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A JP-NSP MINORITY COALITION TO LAST THROUGH NORMAL ELECTORAL TERM.)

E. THREE OF THOSE INTERVIEWED COMMENTED ON THE IMPORTANCE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE OCTOBER 21 JP NATIONAL CONVENTION; NONE EXPECTED DEMIREL TO BE DEFEATED BUT ALL SAID HE COULD BE WEAKENED BY THE RESULTS OF THE CONVENTION.

F. THE LEFT AND FAR LEFT IN TURKEY SEEM, FOR THE MOMENT, TO HAVE BEEN "SWALLOWED UP" IN ECEVIT'S POPULARITY RELATED TO CYPRUS, BUT OUR HOST EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT ECEVIT'S ABILITY TO SOLVE TURKEY'S INTERNAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE TYPE THAT WORRY TURKEY'S SIGNIFICANT LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS. SO FAR, THESE LEFTISTS ARE STILL WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT THEIR CONCERN ABOUT HIS ABILITY TO "DO SOMETHING" ON INTERNAL PROBLEMS IS GROWING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ANKARA08047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740288-0152
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741058/aaaabwxj.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ANKARA 8016 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <13 MAR 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANKARA VIEWS OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005